



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT OPERATIONS**

Art Unit: 1742 (Examiner: Tima McGuthry Banks)

Applicants: STEPHEN M. POTTER  
PEDRO GUTEMBERG QUARIGUASI NETTO

Serial No: 10/789,694

Filed: February 27, 2004

Title: COMBINED PRE-TREATMENT PROCESS FOR ENABLING FEED  
MATERIAL TO BE CHARGED IN DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS

Charlotte, North Carolina  
January 7, 2008

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Before the issuance of a First Office Action, kindly enter the following:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on Page 2 of this report.

**Remarks** begin on Page 6 of this report.